

Attorney Docket No. 9563-11
Application Serial No. 10/559,509
Filed: December 5, 2005
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In The Drawings:

Please replace the figures from the originally filed applications with FIGs. 1-4 provided on the attached Replacement Sheets.

REMARKS

The Applicant sincerely appreciates the thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action of June 6, 2008 (the Office Action). In response, the Applicant has: amended Claim 1 to include recitations of Claim 6 and to provide clarification thereof; amended Claims 4 and 5 to depend from Claim 2; canceled Claim 6; amended Claim 7 to depend from Claim 1 and to provide further clarification; and added new Claims 8-20. In addition, the Applicant has thoroughly amended the specification and figures to address objections raised in the Office Action.

In the following remarks, the Applicant will show that all claims are patentable over the cited art. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course.

All Objections To The Drawings And Specification Have Been Overcome

The Office Action states that the "three sound passage openings" of Claim 1 must be shown. In response, the Applicant submits that FIGs. 1 and 2 of the attached Replacement Sheets show more than three longitudinal sound passage openings 5a and an end sound passage opening 5b, and related portions of the specification have been amended to provide consistency with FIGs. 1 and 2 of the Replacement Sheets.

The Office Action states that the "mesh having a plurality of layers" of Claim 3 must be shown. In response, the Applicant submits that FIG. 4 of the attached Replacement Sheets shows a mesh having a plurality of layers, and related portions of the specification have been amended to provide consistency with FIG. 4 of the Replacement Sheets.

The Office Action has objected to the use of the reference characters (5), (5'), (5''), and (5'''). In response, the Applicant has amended FIGs. 1 and 2 so that the reference label (5a) is used to identify the plurality of longitudinal sound passage openings through jacket/shielding surface 7 and so that the reference label (5b) is used to identify the end sound passage opening 5b through side/end surface 8. Related portions of the specification have been amended to provide consistency with FIGs. 1 and 2.

The Office Action has objected to the use of the reference characters (6), (6'), (6''), and (6'''). In response, the Applicant has amended FIG. 1 so that the reference label (6a) is used to

identify the plurality of noise reduction elements for longitudinal sound passage openings 5a and so that the reference label (6b) is used to identify the noise reduction element for end sound passage opening 5b. Related portions of the specification have been amended to provide consistency with FIG. 1.

The Office Action states that FIG. 2 does not refer to any wind noise reduction elements. The Applicant respectfully submits that FIG. 2 does not show any wind noise reduction elements because FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the pick up housing 3 of FIG. 1, and paragraph [0022] of the specification has been amended to provide consistency with FIG. 2. Accordingly, the wind noise reduction elements are sufficiently illustrated in FIG. 1, and further amendment of FIG. 2 is not required.

The Office Action states that FIG. 3 refers only to (6). In response, the reference 6 has been removed from FIG. 3, and related portions of the specification have been amended to clarify that the mesh of FIG. 3 may be used for any of the noise reduction elements 6a or 6b.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that all objections to the drawings have been overcome.

All Objections To The Claims Have Been Overcome

The Office Action has objected to the use of the term "longitudinally" in Claims 1 and 6. Accordingly, the applicant has amended Claims 1 and 6 as suggested in the Office Action thereby overcoming all objections to the claims.

Claim 1 Is Patentable

Claim 1 has been amended to include recitations of Claim 6. Moreover, Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,422,713 to Patel et al. (Patel), and Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patel in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,600,077 to Drever (Drever) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,552,878 to Wiggins (Wiggins). The Applicant respectfully submits, however, that Claim 1 is patentable over Patel, Drever, and Williams for at least the

reasons discussed below. In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to recite a microphone unit for mobile equipment, comprising:

a microphone pick up located within a microphone pick up housing forming a chamber, wherein said microphone pick up housing defines a cylinder extending in a longitudinal direction along an axis of the cylinder wherein the microphone pick up housing has a shielding surface and a side surface wherein the side surface is perpendicular with respect to the longitudinal direction, wherein said microphone pick up housing is provided with three sound passage openings configured to receive sound from a sound field external to said chamber, said sound passage openings being provided with at least one wind noise reduction element each wherein at least one of said sound passage openings comprises a hole in said shielding surface wherein the hole has a length extending in the longitudinal direction that is greater than a width of the hole in a direction orthogonal with respect to the longitudinal direction.
(Underline added.)

The Office Action concedes that: "neither Patel nor Drever explicitly teaches said sound passage opening being a hole extending in the longitudinal direction in said shielding surface." Office Action, page 7. In support of the rejection of Claim 6, the Office Action states that:

Patel does teach microphone ('713 #22) is preferably of a pressure gradient or directional type ('713 col. 1 lines 61-62).

In the same field of endeavor, Wiggins teaches a pressure gradient microphone ('878 col. 1 lines 6-8) which has multiple sound passage openings ('878 Fig. 1 #52, 54) including on a shielding surface ('878 Fig. 1 marked by #22) of a cylindrical package ('878 Fig. 1 #20) for the benefit of adjusting the directional characteristics of the microphone.

Office Action, pages 7-8. As shown in Figures 1-3 of Wiggins, the sound access openings 52 through the annular center portion 22 appear to be circular. Accordingly, Wiggins fails to teach or suggest a hole having a length in a longitudinal direction that is greater than a width of the hole in a direction orthogonal with respect to the longitudinal direction. Moreover, Wiggins teaches away from such a structure because a thickness of the annular center portion 22 of Wiggins appears to be significantly less than an axial dimension of the annular center portion 22. See, Wiggins, Figures 1-3, and col. 3, lines 3-13.

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Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art. The Applicant further submits that dependent Claims 2-5 and 7-9 are patentable at least as per the patentability of Claim 1 from which they depend.

New Claims 10-20 Are Patentable

Claims 10-20 have been added in the present amendment, and support for new Claim 10-20 is provided in the application as originally filed. The Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art fails to teach or suggest an elongated hole through a cylindrical shielding surface as recited in Claim 10, and that Claim 10 is thus patentable. The Applicant further submits that dependent Claims 11-20 are patentable at least as per the patentability of Claim 10 from which they depend. Allowance of new Claims 10-20 is thus respectfully requested in due course.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that all pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone should any additional issues need to be addressed.

Respectfully submitted,

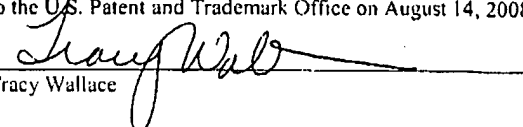


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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on August 14, 2008.



Tracy Wallace